



# Lake Michigan and Northwest Indiana's Future

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*July 30, 2008*

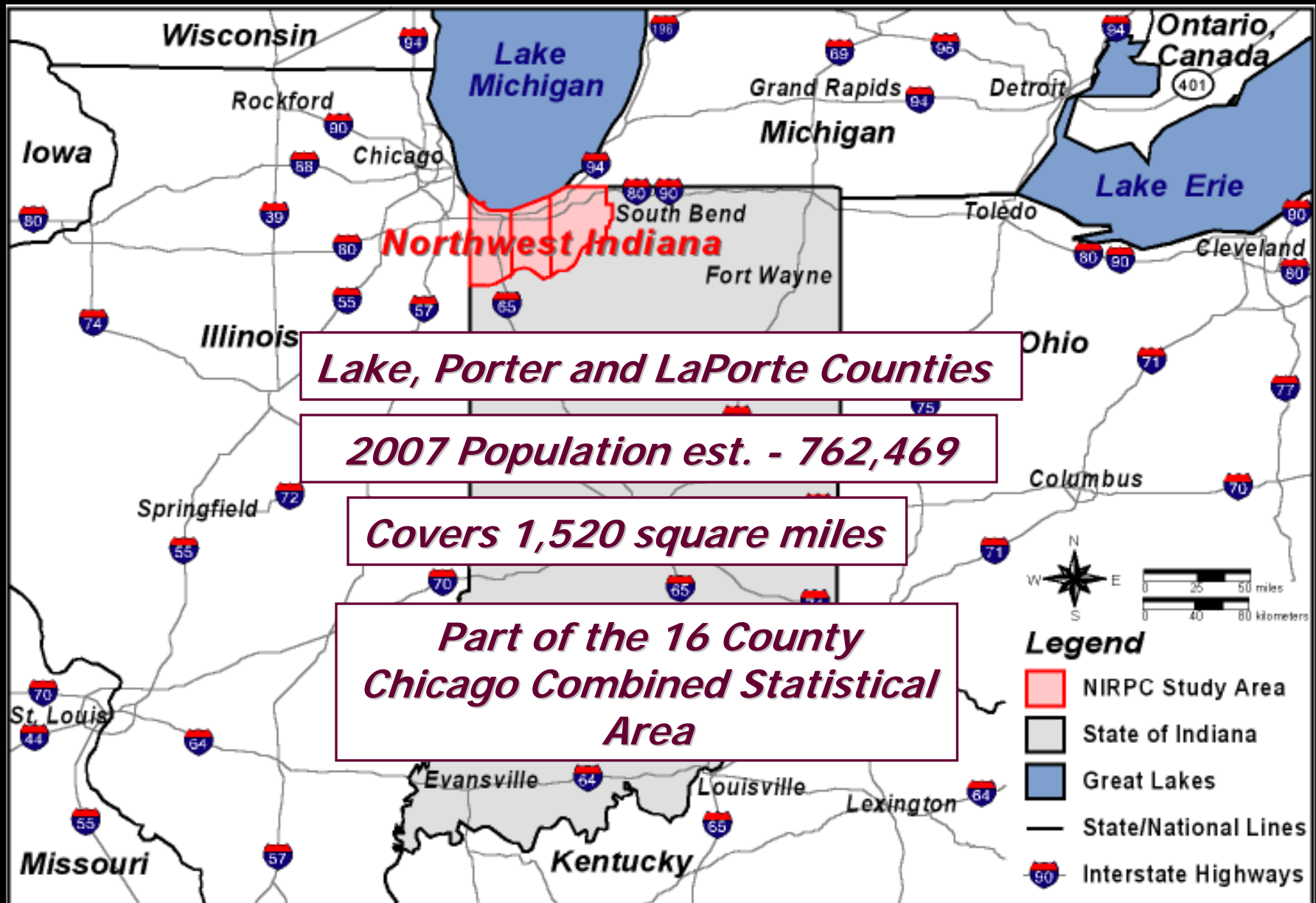


# What is NIRPC?

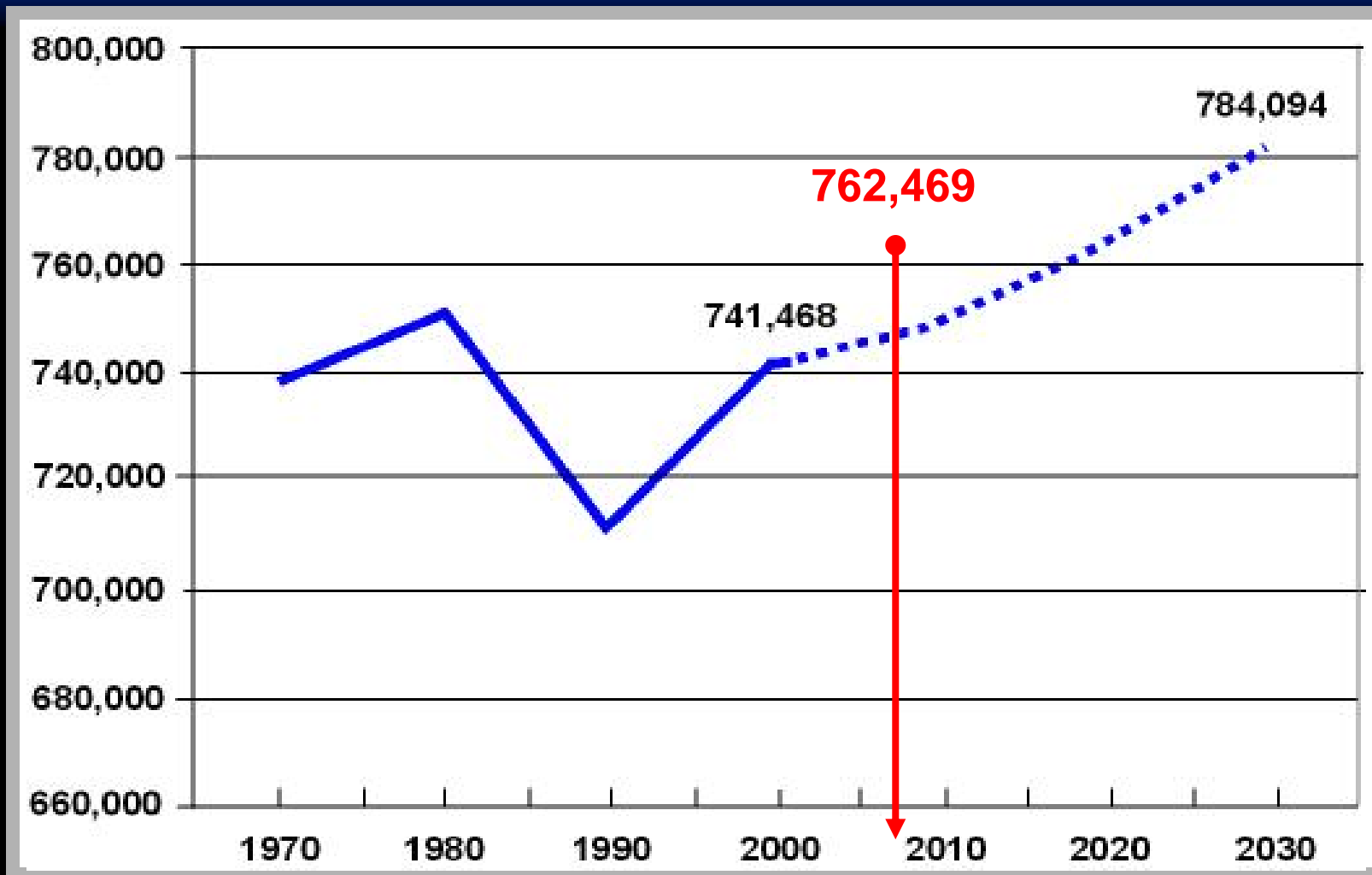
- **Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**
  - ✓ Created in 1965
  - ✓ Metropolitan Planning Organization
  - ✓ Council of Governments
- Responsible for long-range planning in areas of transportation, environment and economic development



# The Northwest Indiana Region



# Northwest Indiana Population 1970-2000, with 2030 Projection



Source: Census Bureau  
Indiana Business Research Center

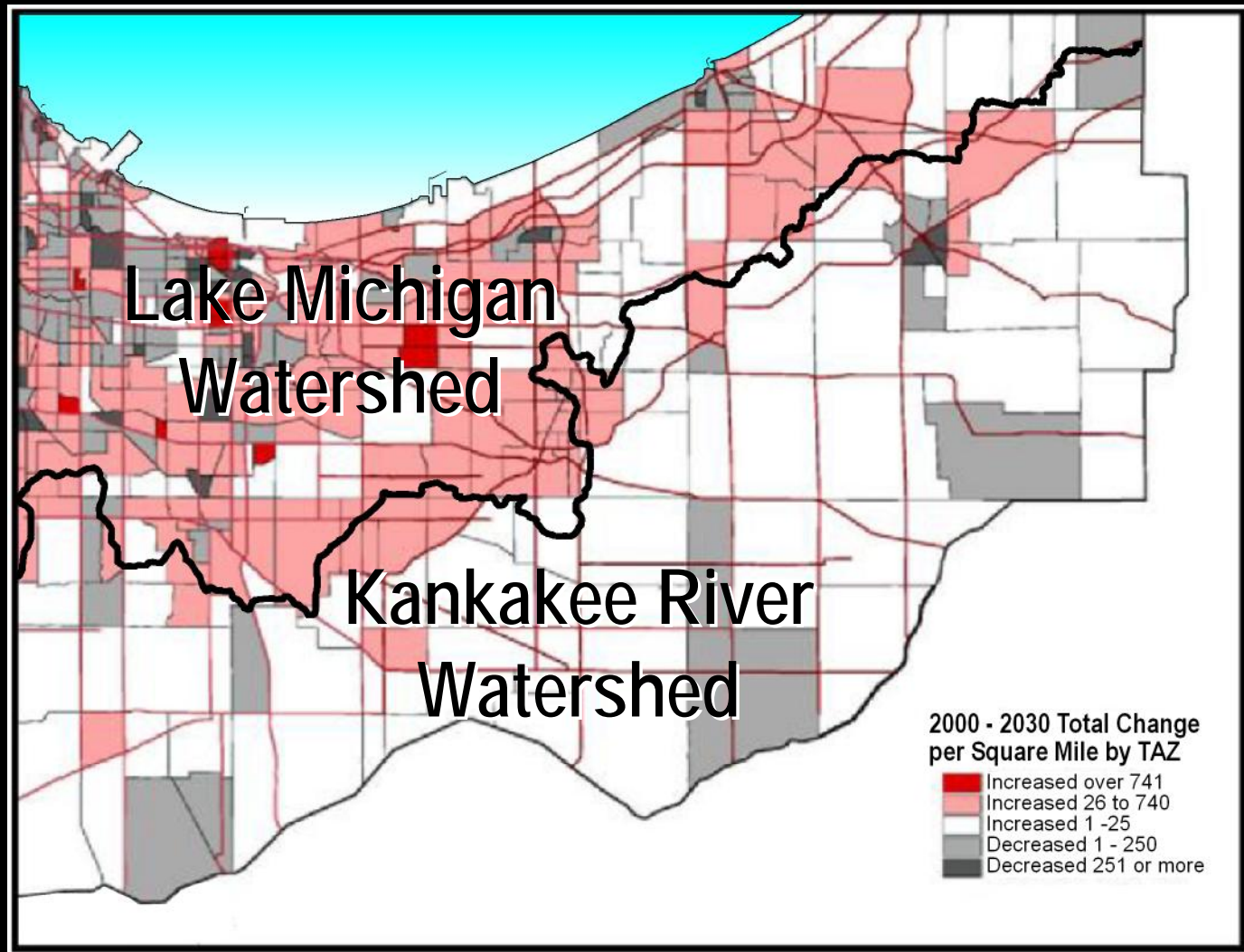
2007



# Projected Population Change 2000-2030

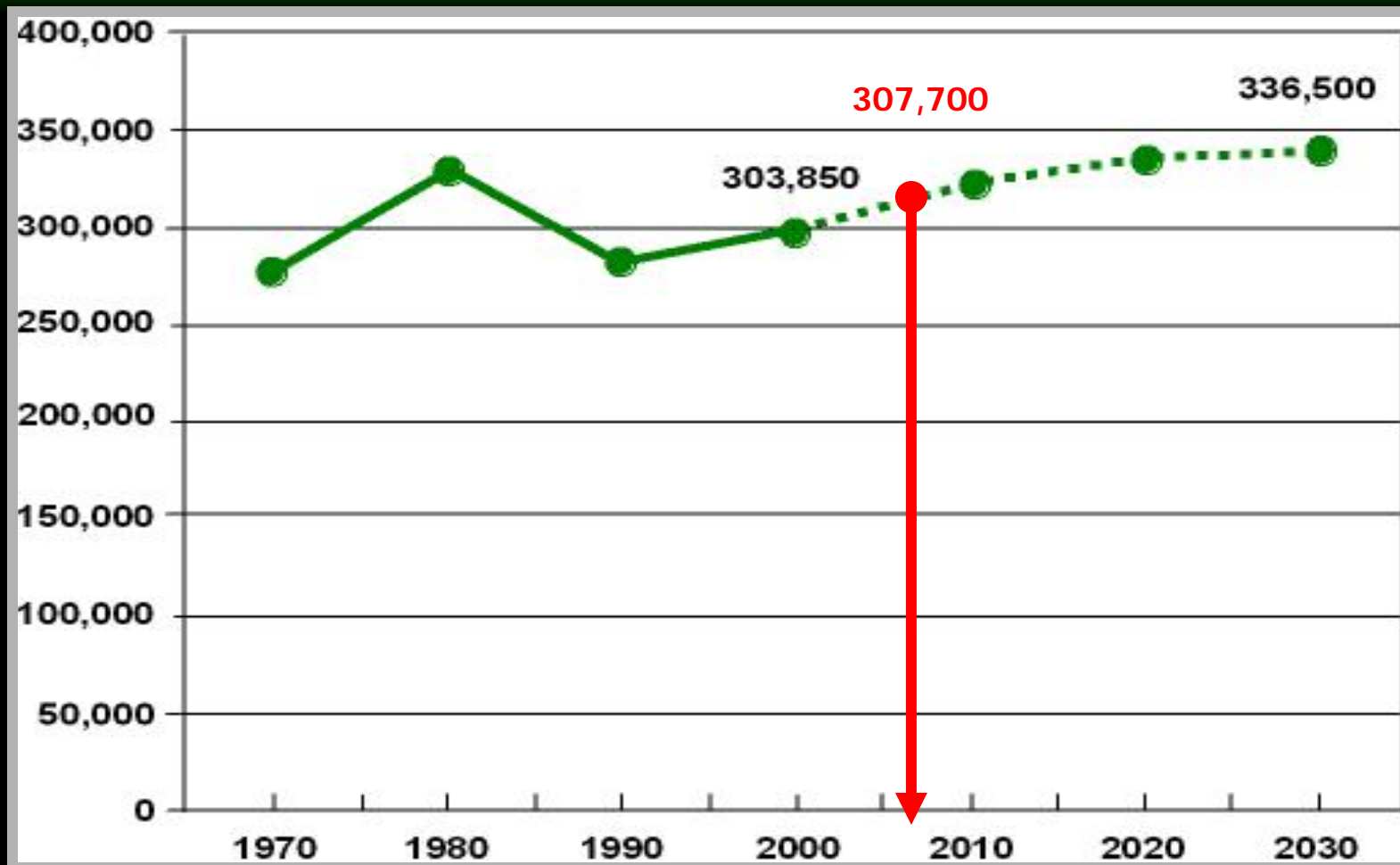
increase in  
white to red

decreases  
in gray



Source: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

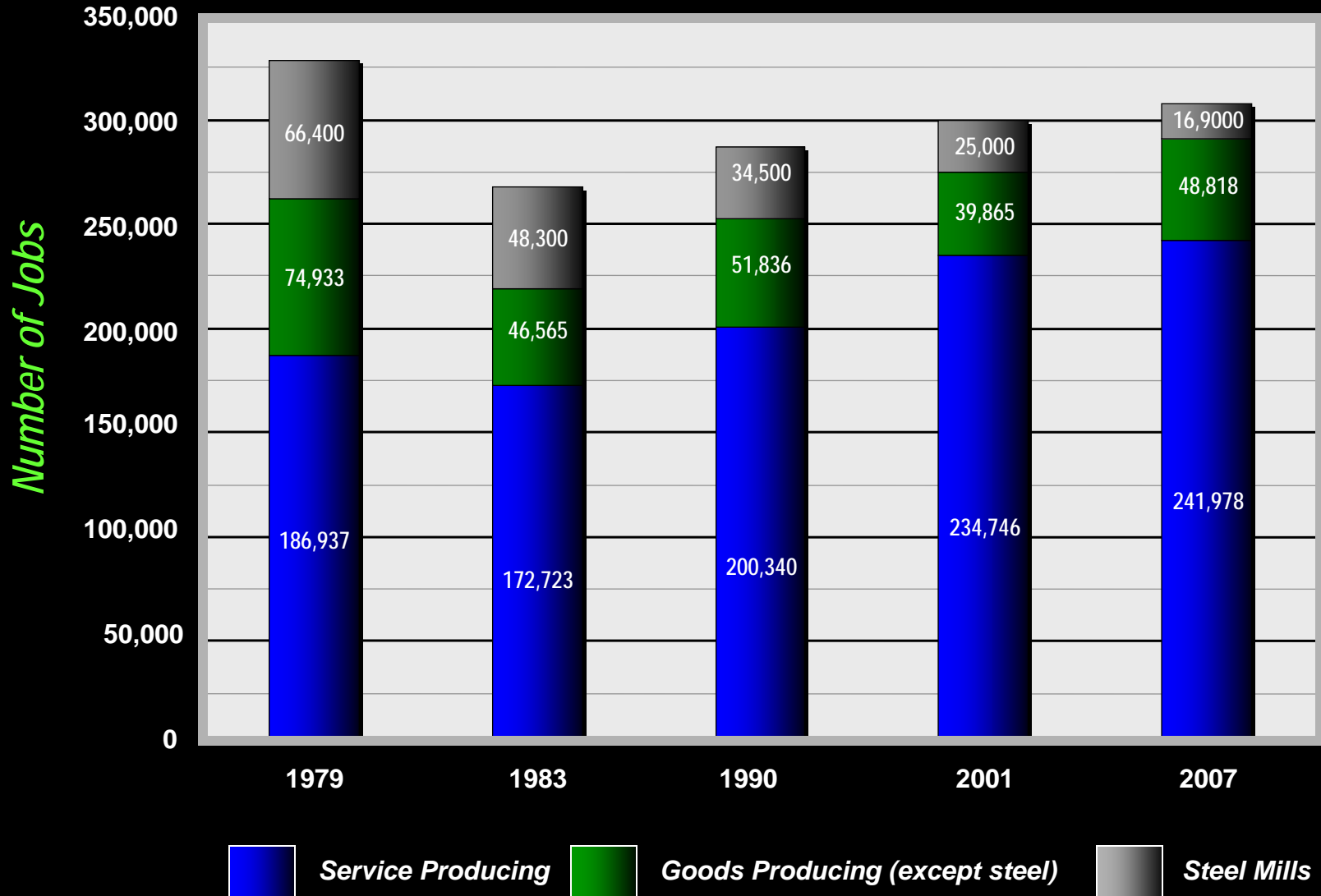
# Northwest Indiana Employment 1970-2000, with 2030 Projection



Source: Census Bureau  
Indiana Department of Workforce Development

# Northwest Indiana's Transforming Economy

## Employment by Sector

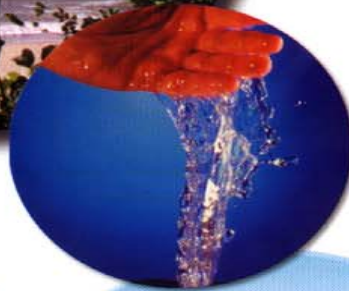


# Water Resources



Protection and  
Conservation

Toolkit

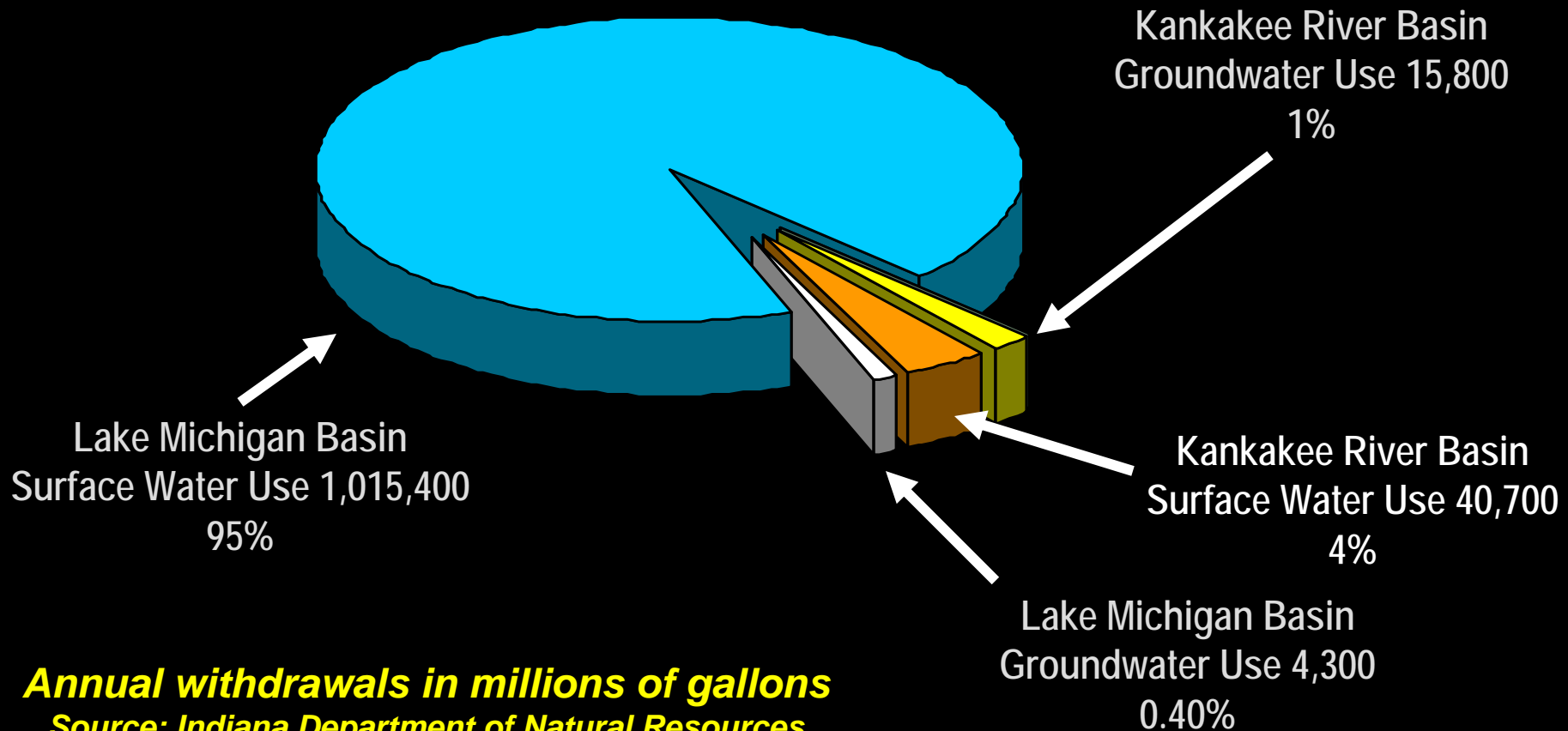


Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

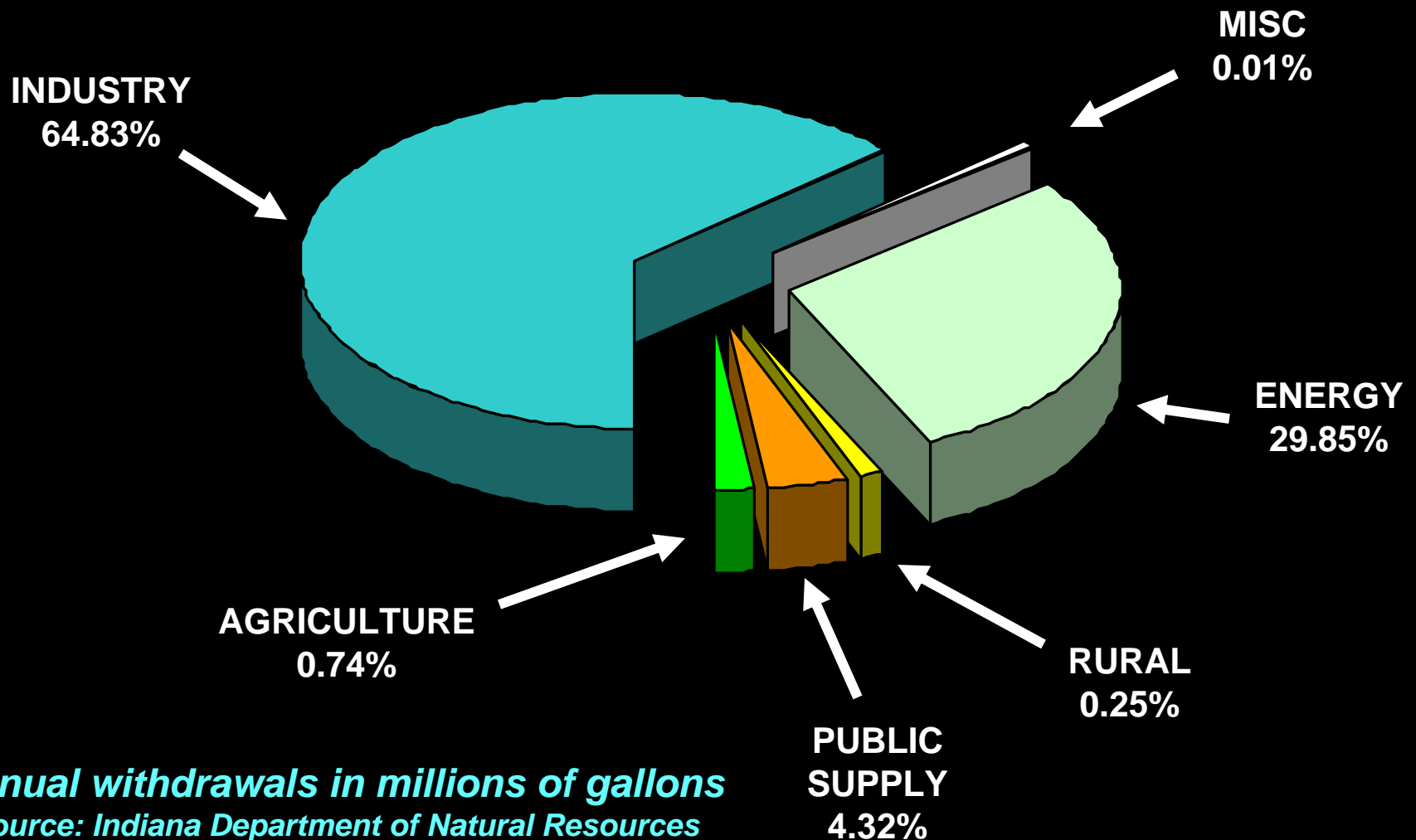
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# 2006 Water Use in the Lake Michigan & Kankakee River Basin by Source



# 2006 Water Withdrawal by User





# WATERSHED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

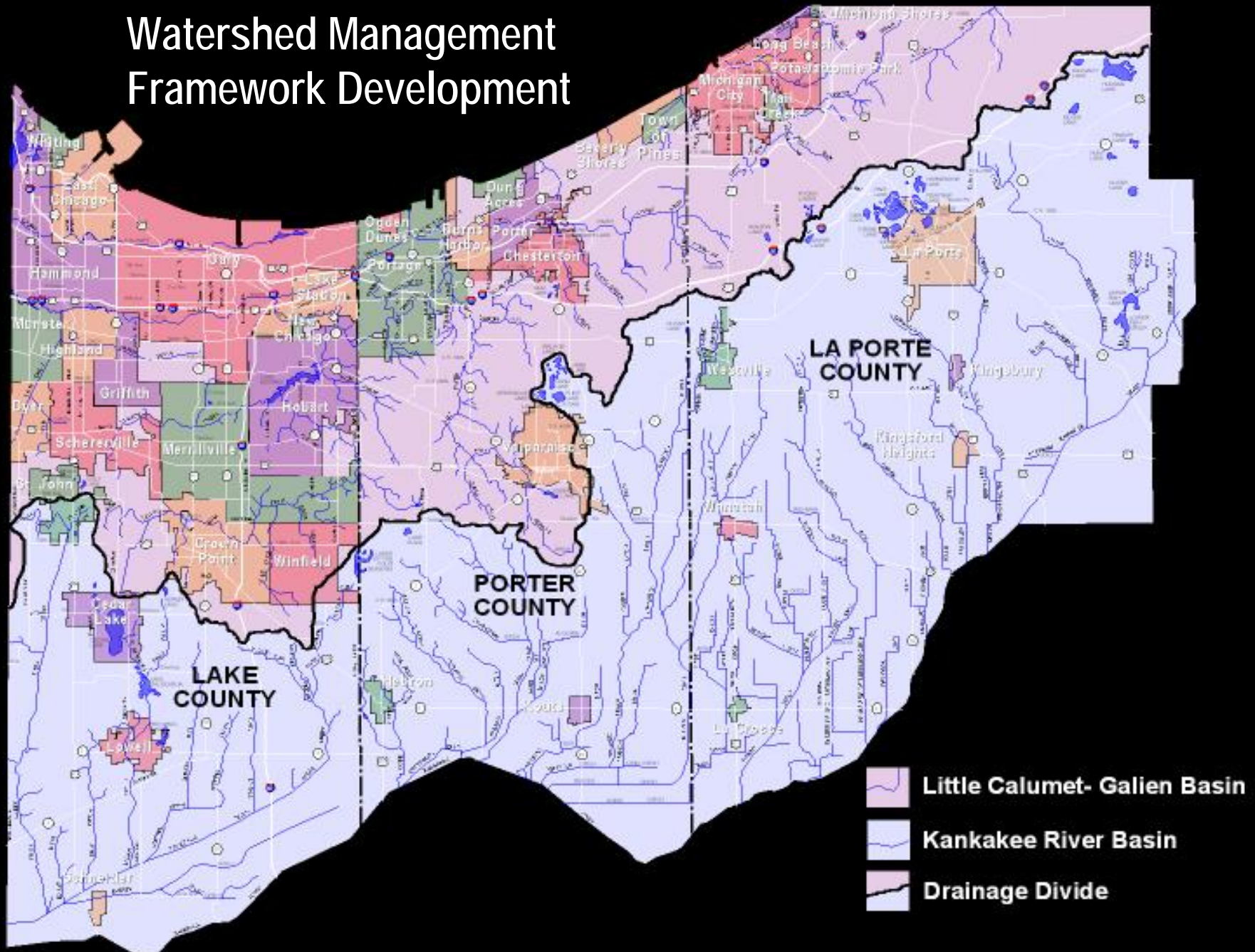
Lake, Porter, and  
LaPorte Counties

Prepared by the  
Northwestern Indiana  
Regional Planning Commission

October 2005

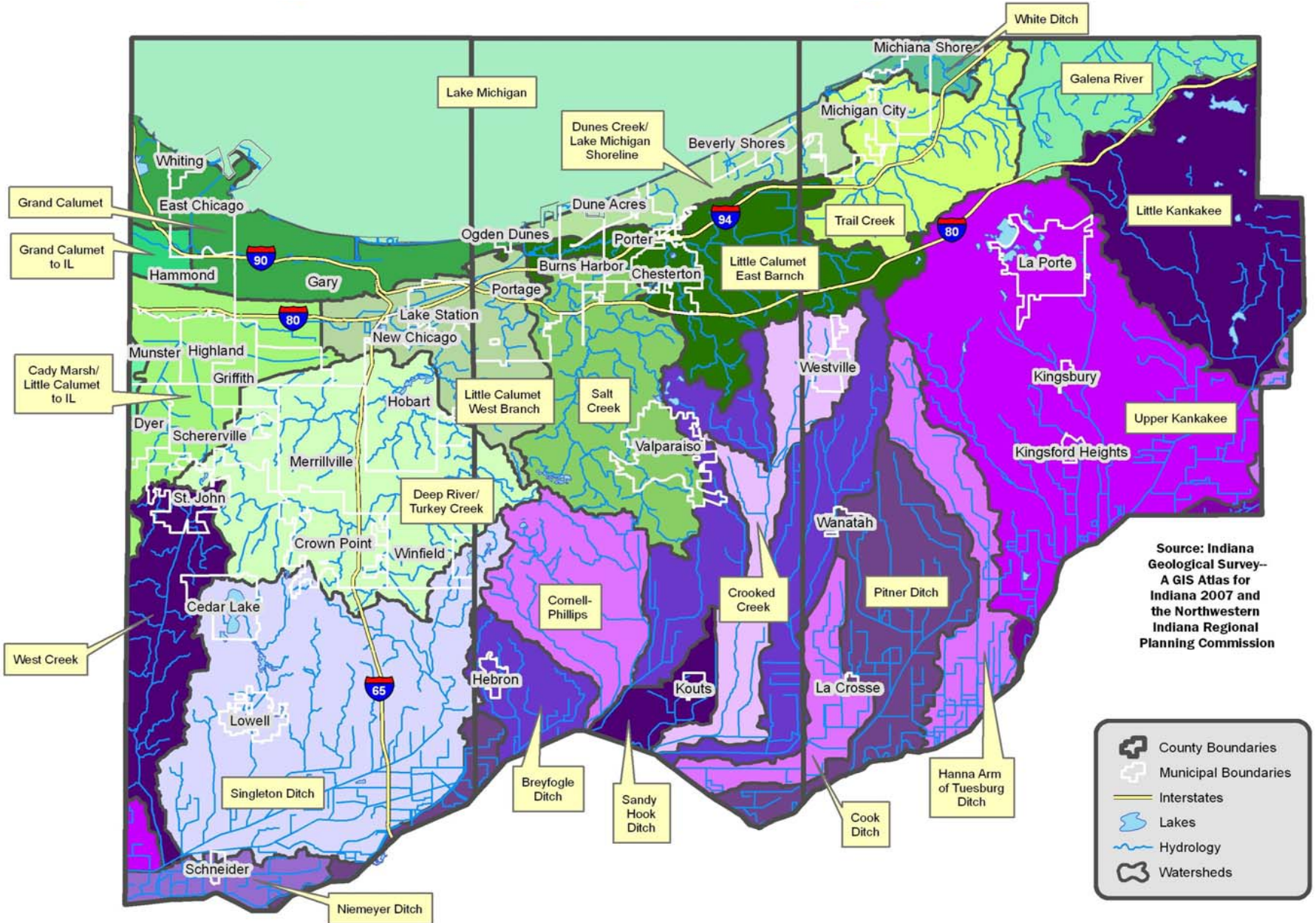


# Watershed Management Framework Development





# Watersheds of Northwest Indiana







**GREENWAYS & BLUEWAYS**  
NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL PLAN

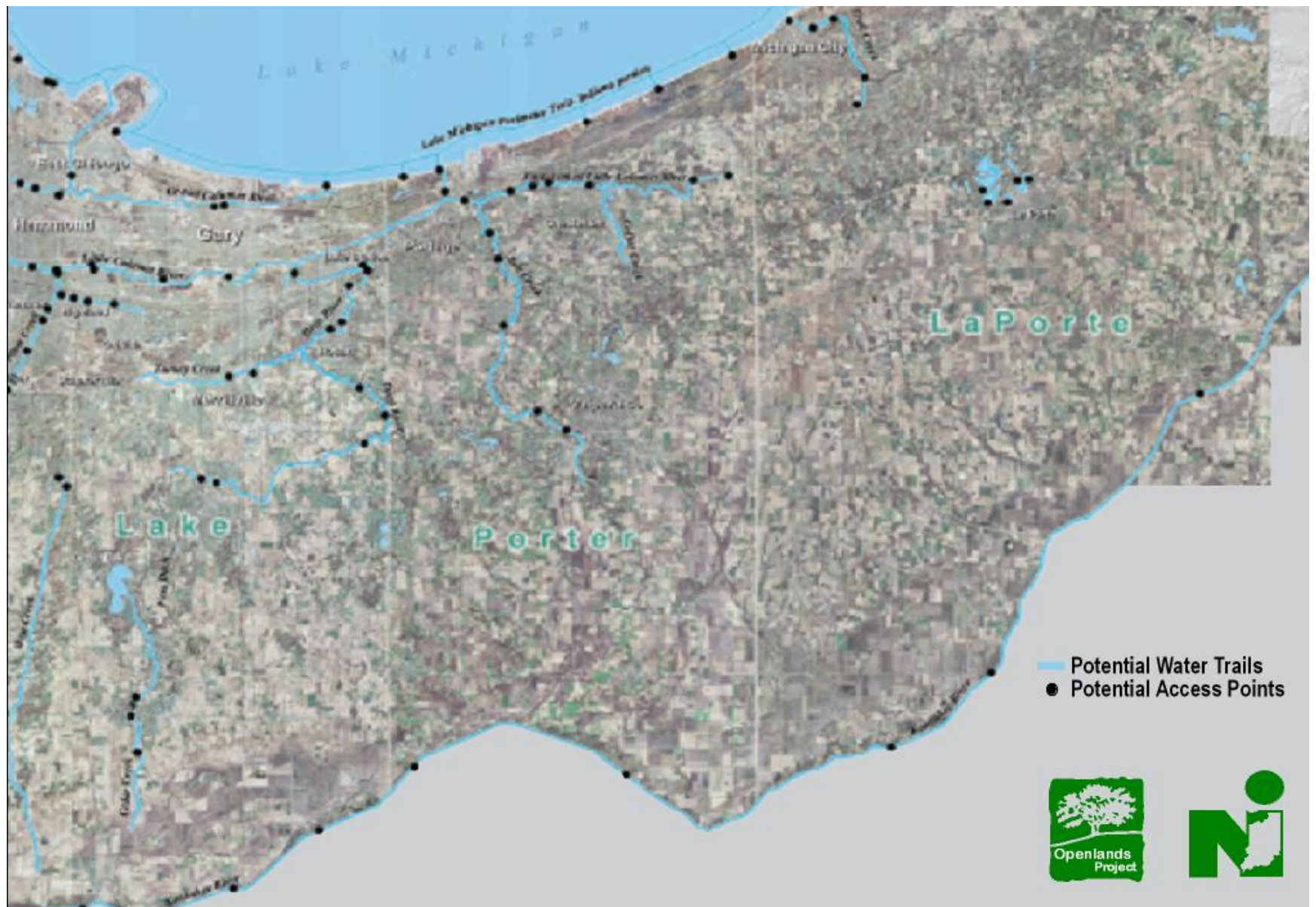


# NWI Greenways & Blueways Plan

- First plan of its type for all of NW Indiana region;
- Expand on previous efforts of the Openlands Project & Chicago Wilderness in delineating regional open space;
- Inventory potential water trail opportunities, and develop plan to aid in their use as recreational corridors (boat launches, camp sites, etc.);
- Grant awarded from the Donnelley Foundation in Chicago, with plan completed in 2007.



# POTENTIAL WATER TRAILS





# The Marquette Plan: A Vision for Lakeshore Reinvestment





# PORTAGE LAKEFRONT



This sub-area demonstrates how through collaboration and strategic actions, leaders both public and private, can implement community endorsed planning initiatives and catalytic projects as envisioned in a regional vision plan.

The Portage Northside Master Plan (the sub-area's identified planning initiative) provides a framework for action across nearly 1,600 acres on Portage's north side. By partnering with local developers, the City of Portage's Redevelopment Commission was able to advance this initiative.

The catalytic project for this sub area is Portage Lakefront Park. The park – built on a reclaimed 60 acre industrial brownfield site – will provide public access to Lake Michigan. Through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service – Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore – the City of Portage was able to partner with the United States Army Corp. of Engineers, US Steel Corporation, Pre-Coat Metals, the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, and other valued partners to construct the park.



# Northwest Indiana

## Climate Change Key Concerns

### 1) Water Quantity

- Lake Water levels & flows in tributaries
- Impact on commercial navigation of ports
- Infrastructure costs
- Impact on recreational boating

### 2) Water Quality

- Commercial user needs
- Residential user needs

### 3) Human Health

- Drinking water quality
- Beach closures
- Waterborne illnesses

### 4) Physical Environment

- Storm surge impacts
- Rip currents
- Ice thickness
- Impact on dunes and beaches

### 5) Seasonal Precipitation & Frequency of Heavy Rainstorms

- Flooding
- Combined sewer overflows
- Snow frequency/accumulation

### 6) Fishing

- Abundance and condition

### 7) Aquatic Invasion Species

- Biodiversity
- Other Ecosystem impacts



A dramatic sunset scene with a bright sun partially obscured by dark, textured clouds. The sun's rays create a strong lens flare effect across the image. Below the horizon, a city skyline is visible in the distance. The foreground shows the dark, silhouetted branches of trees on the left and the dark, rippling surface of a body of water.

***Thank  
You***

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